India and Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL), the existing airport at Begumpet shall be closed for commercial operations once the new airport at Shamsabad becomes operational. However, this airport can be used for transportation of dignitaries by VIP aircraft and for general aviation services.

Star Alliance Network

494. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined the Star Alliance network;

(b) if so, how the joining of Air India in Star Alliance help Air India and its passengers; and

(c) how joining Star Alliance help Air India operation and its proposed European hub in Munich or Vienna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India (AI) has been accepted as a future member of Star Alliance.

(b) and (c) Once a member of the Alliance, AI will be able to derive benefits by way of special/preferred rates under "Umbrella Agreements" entered into by Star Alliance with various industry service providers, which will lead to reduction in cost and increase in revenues. It will also be able to offer Premium Customer Benefits, Common Star Products etc. to its customers. Its entry into Star Alliance could also contribute significantly to the success of its planned European Hub - by way of feed provided by the Star carriers to Air India's services at the Hub.

Medical facilities at airports

495. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an NRI died at the Mumbai International Airport due to medical negligence;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what arrangements are in place at various airports for emergency treatment and first-aid as the aviation industry and air travel has risen tremendously; and

(d) how many such cases have been reported in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airport-wise details are as under:

(i) IGI Airport, Delhi: Round-the-clock medical inspection units are functional.

(ii) CSI Airport, Mumbai: Three fully equipped medical rooms supported by ICU ambulances and trained staff are functional round the clock.

(iii) Chennai, Kolkata and Trivandrum airports: Medical inspection rooms managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) medical officers are functional.

(iv) Ahmedabad, Calicut, Jaipur, Nagpur, Dimapur, Mangalore, Tiruchirapalli and Goa